

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Stanford Lipsey
Publisher and President

October 16, 2000

Mr. Jeff S. Jordan
Supervisory Attorney
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Pursuant to your letter of October 11, reference MUR 5102; please be advised that NBC's Washington Bureau handled this matter.

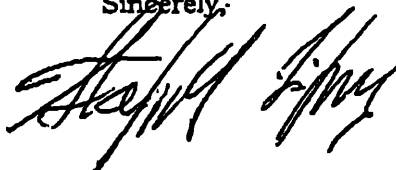
After talking with NBC, and your Alva E. Smith, here is the sequence of what occurred:

Sara Lyons, calling on behalf of Independence Party Chairman, Frank Mackay, paged Barbara Levin of NBC on September 11 wanting to know NBC's position on Mackay's request for inclusion of the Independence Party candidate in the senate debate in Buffalo on September 13.

Regarding the criteria NBC was using to determine which candidates to invite, Ms. Levin replied: that a candidate would have to poll 15% in a basket poll consisting of those surveyed in a Marist, Quinnipiac and/or any statewide poll commissioned by a major news organization. In addition, Ms. Levin explained that this is the same standard used by the commission on presidential debates.

There were several phone calls and messages exchanged, but the above is essentially the response to the inquiry.

Sincerely,



cc: Tim Russert, NBC News

ONE NEWS PLAZA P. O. Box 100 BUFFALO, N. Y. 14240 (716) 849-3426 FAX: (716) 849-4554

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